From:	<u>Jared</u>
То:	FS-comments-southern-cherokee-watauga
Subject:	[External Email]Create needed habitat for ruffed grouse and American Woodcock on the Cherokee National Forest
Date:	Tuesday, January 31, 2023 7:26:30 PM

[External Email]

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To whom it may concern,

As a resident of northeastern Tennessee, a hunter, and a conservationist, I am compelled to voice my support for the Pond Mountain project to create improved habitat targeting ruffed grouse and American woodcock. These improvements will benefit not only these game birds, whose populations have been steadily on the decline for decades, but other wildlife as well by providing improved cover and winter forage.

If action is not taken, and soon, these animals populations will continue to dwindle, until it may be too late. Active management must be undertaken. Please, for the sake of ours and future generations of sportsmen, birdwatchers, and the birds themselves, move forward with this and other habitat improvement projects.

Sincerely,

Jared Smith, a member of the Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock Association